

My name is Carol Kinn. My address is 211 Vickie Lane, Fostoria, OH 44830

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Dear Representatives,

I attended the May 23 hearing as a proponent of SB 119. I wanted to follow up on a question posed as to “what are the harms to Seneca County & Fostoria from Sunny Farms Landfill, and is it an imminent or potential threat”. I would have to say that anyone living in Fostoria or western Seneca County is in imminent danger from the landfill. Liners are only supposed to last 30 years, and SFL has been accepting out-of-state trash for 20 years. Since the railcars are not inspected before they are unloaded, who knows exactly what is in them? A 2022 review of the SFL website says they accept contaminated soil, sewer sludge, PCB bulk product materials, pharmaceuticals, biohazardous waste and a long list of “specialty” waste, which is described as waste that “poses an unusual threat to human health, property or the environment.” We are now on track to receive hazardous waste material from the cleanup of a site in Brookhaven, NY. That’s right – clean up areas on the East coast and dump it in Ohio!!

I’ve lived in Fostoria for 50 years, & have seen first-hand the damage done to our community from SFL. Our property values have all gone down, since many people refuse to move here with the 900’ tall mountains of trash so close to our city. 7500 tons of out-of-state trash every day is routed through our city, strewing trash all over from the oft-uncovered cars. IF SFL gets their way, this will increase to 12,000 tons of out-of-state trash every single day!! The stench from rotting refuse, although better than it was 4 years ago, continues to plague the community. People living in close proximity to the rail tracks have noticed a marked increase in the rodent population. One lady spoke at a meeting last summer of the hundreds of dollars she has spent trying to control the rats on her farm, which is adjacent to SFL. People living closest to SFL have to live with truck traffic and noise at all hours of the night, mud all over roads, long wait times to cross the RR tracks, dust from the unloading station, and much more.

The thing that worries us the most is the health repercussions from having a basically unmonitored landfill so close to us and our water supply. Whether you have a well or city water, how do we know what toxic chemicals have seeped into our water? The Portage & Wolf Creeks are so close to the landfill, & the Portage feeds directly into our reservoir on its way to Lake Erie. The chemicals & gases spewing into our air are obviously a concern as well. Hydrogen sulfide is now somewhat burned off, but the byproduct of that is sulfur dioxide, which causes acid rain. It seems like everyone knows someone who is suffering from cancer or lung-related diseases here. With no impact study done, how do we know what has caused the uptick in these illnesses? My husband has been hospitalized on & off since August 17 with an extremely rare form of pneumonia. Was it caused by toxins from SFL? So far Doctors have not found the answer, but his lungs have been permanently damaged. It’s no wonder that NO ONE in management at SFL or the EPA lives within about a 20-mile radius of the landfill.

Thank you for reading my letter, & please consider voting yes for SB119. We truly want and need more local control and oversight of SFL.

Sincerely,

Carol Kinn